

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. COX] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. COX of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

FDA'S EXPENSIVE NEW FACILITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. DUNCAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, one of the most wasteful, inefficient agencies in the entire Federal Government is the Food and Drug Administration.

In their bureaucratic and arrogant way, they have held medicines and medical devices off the U.S. market, sometimes for years, to the detriment of the health of American citizens.

By their rules, regulations, and red-tape, they have driven up the price of drugs and have helped the big drug giants by making it extremely difficult or almost impossible for small businesses to compete in the field.

Now, however, they want to do something which should outrage every taxpayer in the Nation.

At a time when we are supposed to be downsizing the Federal Government, the FDA wants to build a Taj Mahal complex of buildings in Maryland for a new headquarters.

Part of this project is to be in Montgomery County and part in Prince Georges County.

However, the important point is not the location. It is the cost.

The original cost estimate for these buildings was almost \$1 billion dollars.

However, because the FDA has become concerned about the appearance of this exorbitant and excessive spending at a time when most people want frugality in Government, they have lowered their estimated cost, all the way down to \$875 million.

Even if this project comes in on budget, which I seriously doubt, it would still be at a cost of a whopping \$257 a square foot.

State governments are building beautiful buildings for half this cost.

And is the FDA doing everything possible to hold down costs? Well, since the money is not coming out of their own pockets, they chose the most expensive site they looked at and some of the most expensive land in this Nation.

The original cost estimate for the Prince Georges facility was \$290 a square foot.

The Montgomery County complex is to be several buildings interconnected, in a college campus-like setting, on a 530-acre tract of land—530 acres when they could build a beautiful headquarters on an acre or less.

The fact is, Mr. Speaker, the FDA should be greatly reformed. It should

be greatly downsized. It should stay where it is now.

Perhaps the most phenomenal thing of all is the size of this project—3.4 million square feet—to house only 6,500 employees. This comes out to approximately 750 square feet per employee.

Most Members of Congress have approximately 1,000 square feet to house 9 or 10 employees, or about one-seventh of what the FDA wants.

Moreover, FDA's current offices and laboratories occupy 2.1 million square feet of office space.

The new FDA complex will be 3.4 million square feet in size. This is one million, three hundred thousand square feet more than what they have now—a 60 percent increase—at a time when the Federal Government is supposed to be downsizing.

With a national debt of more than \$4.7 trillion, we should not be spending almost \$1 billion to build plush new quarters for FDA bureaucrats.

The bureaucrats want to live like kings while taxpayers foot the bill.

I am pleased that today, the Citizens for a Sound Economy came out strongly against this project.

I know we have a Government that is of, by, and for the bureaucrats instead of one that is of, by, and for the people, but, Mr. Speaker, this is one I hope we can win for the taxpayers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. BARR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BARR addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. KOLBE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. KOLBE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

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THE PRIVATIZATION OF THE HUMANITIES ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BE-REUTER). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. CHABOT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, we've been told time and time again that spending has already been cut to the bone and that we can't cut anything without shredding the fabric of our society. Well, that's not true. All sorts of needless bureaucracies continue to waste all sorts of money and eat a hole in our wallets. Today, I'd like to call attention to one of the more egregious examples I've seen during my first month on the job.

I am referring to the tripe that I and all my colleagues received this past

week from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The NEH produced and sent around to us something called a Conversation Kit, more formally entitled a "National Conversation on American Pluralism and Identity."

Inside you'll find 20 or so high-gloss pamphlets, some of them 30 or 40 pages long, that contain readings of varying quality, simplistic questions, and the Government's edicts on how folks should talk to each other.

This is the brainchild of NEH Chairman Sheldon Hackney and his band of "culture bureaucrats," as George Will has labeled them. Its basic assumption is that we, as free-thinking Americans, need the Government to tell us how to engage in day-to-day conversations. The plan, as I understand it, is for NEH-types to go around the country circulating these packets and instructing us all how to talk with one another.

Besides assembling arcane questions such as "When do we act as public people and when as private people?" or the more abstract "Where do we belong?" the Conversation Kit suggests readings by militant feminists such as Patricia Williams and Charlotte Bunch, and provides a list of movies that, quote, "might make good conversation starters." I must thank Mr. Hackney for spending our tax dollars to tell us about a little known film called "Casa-blanca."

So the American public can see first hand some of Mr. Hackney's handiwork, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD a small excerpt from the Conversation Kit.

Besides the kit's skewed content, every American should be outraged by the expense of printing these Conversation Kits. This particular program, I'm told, is going to cost us \$1,700,000 just by itself. And remember, given our huge national debt, that's \$1.7 million that we don't have and that we're charging to our children's accounts.

Mr. Speaker, the NEH again has thrust the Federal Government into another venture in which it does not belong. And once again, we see the Federal Government pushing its inane, self-righteous agenda on the American public.

These conversation kits maybe politically correct, but they're fiscally foolish. They're also insulting to the intelligence of our citizens.

America's filled with sensible, kind, and intelligent people who know how to talk with one another. The last thing we need is a group of condescending academics squandering our tax dollars to tell us how to talk to each other. This is not the proper role of the Federal Government and we need to end, forever, this type of wasteful spending.

That's why I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring Congressman JOE HEFLEY's bill, The Privatization of